

---

## Answers to Questions Regarding the Client Security Fund

---



---

Client Security Fund Committee  
Second Floor - Suite One  
287 Main Street  
East Hartford, CT 06118-1885  
(860) 568-3450

---

*[www.jud.state.ct.us](http://www.jud.state.ct.us)*

# The Client Security Fund

## What is the Client Security Fund?

The Client Security Fund is a fund established by the rules of the Connecticut Superior Court to provide reimbursement to individuals who have lost money or property as a result of the dishonest conduct of an attorney practicing law in the State of Connecticut, in the course of the attorney-client relationship. The fund provides a remedy for clients who are unable to obtain reimbursement for their loss from any other source.

## Where does money for the Client Security Fund come from?

The fund is financed by a fee collected from each attorney admitted to practice law in the State of Connecticut, as well as each judge, judge trial referee, state referee, family support magistrate, family support referee and workers' compensation commissioner.

## Who administers the Client Security Fund?

The fund is administered by the Client Security Fund Committee, which is



comprised of fifteen members. Nine of the members are attorneys, three are non-attorneys, and three serve either as a judge, appellate court judge, supreme court justice, family support magistrate, family support referee or workers' compensation commissioner.

### **What types of losses are covered by the Client Security Fund?**

The Client Security Fund Committee may reimburse losses resulting from the dishonest conduct of a Connecticut attorney who has died, been adjudged incapable, not competent or mentally ill, been disbarred or suspended from the practice of law, been placed on inactive status by a Connecticut court, resigned from the Connecticut bar, or against whom a judgment has been obtained with respect to the dishonest conduct. "Dishonest conduct" means wrongful acts committed by an attorney, in an attorney-client

relationship, in the nature of theft or embezzlement of money or the wrongful taking of money, property or other things of value. It does not include wrongful acts committed in connection with the provision of investment services. Furthermore, a loss ordinarily will not be covered by the fund if the claim is presented more than four years after the loss was discovered or should have been discovered or if the loss was suffered by a close relative, business associate or partner of the attorney. In some cases, the Client Security Fund Committee may require you to pursue other remedies that you may have against the attorney who caused your loss before considering your claim, such as filing a civil lawsuit against the attorney or the attorney's estate.

### **How do I file a claim?**

You may file a claim by completing and returning a claim form, available from the office of the Client Security Fund Committee, Second Floor, Suite One, 287 Main Street, East Hartford, Connecticut, 06118-1885, telephone (860) 568-3450. The form should be completed providing as much information as possible. The Client Security Fund Committee may require additional information from you in addition to the information provided in the form.

There is no application fee. You are not required to be represented by an attorney, although you may have one represent you if you wish. Attorneys may not charge a fee for assisting individuals with their claim unless the fee is approved by the Client Security Fund Committee.

### **What is the claims process?**

Each claim is reviewed to determine if it is eligible for reimbursement. If the claim is not eligible for reimbursement, you will be notified. Eligible claims are investigated, and the Client Security Fund Committee determines, in its sole discretion, the amount of reimbursement that will be allowed, if any, and how payment will be made.

### **What happens if I am awarded payment on my claim?**

In order for you to receive payment, the Client Security Fund Committee will require you to sign documents transferring your claim against the dishonest attorney to the Committee, in order to allow the Client Security Fund Committee to attempt to obtain reimbursement from that attorney for amounts paid to you. If the Client Security Fund Committee reimburses you for all or any part of your loss, you are also required

to cooperate with the Committee to help them obtain reimbursement from the attorney for the amounts that were paid to you.

### **How long does the claims process take?**

It depends upon the length of time that is required to obtain enough information for the Client Security Fund Committee to make a decision regarding your claim. However, you will receive a written decision regarding the claim once it is made by the Client Security Fund Committee.

### **How can I get more information or answers to questions?**

Contact the office of the Client Security Fund Committee at (860) 568-3450.

*Please note that these answers to questions have been provided to you for informational purposes only, and are not intended in any way to amend or supplement the Superior Court rules or Committee regulations which govern the Client Security Fund Committee. Reference may be had to the Connecticut Practice Book, available at any Superior Court library, for the official text of the rules governing the activities of the Client Security Fund Committee.*